

A Series of UNFORTUNATE

A severe snowstorm, a pack of wolves, a patient bowhunter, a blue pickup truck.

While this may seem unfortunate to us, it is just part of life as a whitetail. With more than a million and a half deer in Michigan, mortality (death) is an important factor for our ecosystems because too many deer can destroy a healthy habitat for plants and other wildlife. While a captive whitetail may live 15-20 years, most deer mortality in Michigan occurs in the first five years of their life. What is the largest cause of this mortality? It all depends where deer live in Michigan.

In southern Michigan where most white-tails live and winters are fairly mild, hunters claim many of these deer for the freezer. Automobiles also account for many deaths.

Without wolves in southern Michigan, the remaining deaths are due to other predators (like wild dogs and coyotes) or disease.

In Michigan's Upper Peninsula (UP) the story is entirely different. If the winter is severe, deep snow and below-freezing temperatures may claim the lives of more than 100,000 animals through starvation. Hunters take fewer deer in the UP but many more than the wolves that live there. Fewer roads, people, and traffic also keep the number of car/deer accidents lower than southern Michigan. Others die from other predators and disease.



How 'bout a Nice Big Piece of Humble Pie

Can you imagine cervid stew or Antler ala King? How about humble pie? "Humble" is the organ meat of a deer, elk or moose (heart, liver, etc.). Many people believe these are the tastiest parts of the animals...

Hunting deer is a long time-honored tradition all over the globe. Perhaps it is because so many people enjoy the taste of deer meat called **venison**. Venison has less cholesterol (fat) than beef and is considered by many to be a healthy alternative.

Wapiti Wise

Elk are not near as common as the white-tailed deer. They number about 1,100 and live in a narrow belt of habitat in the north central part of the state.

Because we have limited numbers of elk in Michigan, wildlife biologists allow people to apply for a permit to hunt them and only about 200 citizens each year are given the opportunity to hunt elk. Last year 181 of them put wapiti in their "Wafriatorator"...

Moose Muffle

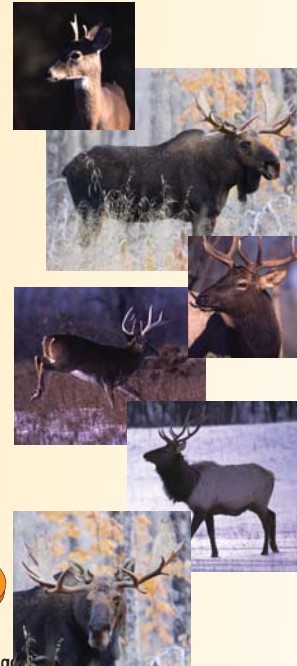
The moose's large muzzle (from nose to lip) is sometimes called muffle and enjoyed as a delicacy by those who hunt it in other states. But Michigan moose are not hunted because biologists want the animals populations to get higher first. All Michigan moose, which number around 400, currently live in the Upper Peninsula.



Answers from Page 2

1. Human Foot 2. Chipmunk 3. Dog 4. Horse 5. Domestic Cat 6. Mrs. Robinson

The Family Cervidae



November 15th

The only day of the year you can "hear" the sun rise.

Each year, November 15th is the traditional opening day of firearm deer hunting season when approximately 700,000 hunters take to the field to begin legal hunting for deer. Hunters who prefer to hunt with a bow get an earlier start in October. All in all, about 400,000 deer are killed in Michigan's deer hunting seasons. Michigan has enormous deer numbers (about 1.6 million). Deer live in all 83 Michigan counties. White-tailed deer numbers are so high, they provide lots of animals for harvest with no threat to the species overall population. Want to find out more about deer hunting? For more information check the DNR website at: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnrhunting>

That's a Fact, Jack
Last year, 30,000 new hunters were trained in a hunter safety course



Director Rebecca A. Humphries, Writer: Kevin Frailley Other Contributors: Patricia Stewart, Dick Morsheck, Earl Wolf, Rod Clute, Bob Wild, Jon Speiles, DNR Wildlife, Tina Stojakovich